



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
[www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov)

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/495,483	02/01/2000	Ken R. Powell	104.005-003	4924
38245	7590	05/04/2006	EXAMINER	
JEROME D. JACKSON (JACKSON PATENT LAW OFFICE) 211 N. UNION STREET, SUITE 100 ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314				SALIARD, SHANNON S
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
3639				

DATE MAILED: 05/04/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b>	<b>Applicant(s)</b>
	09/495,483	POWELL, KEN R.
	<b>Examiner</b>	<b>Art Unit</b>
	Shannon S. Saliard	3639

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 09 May 2005.  
 2a) This action is FINAL.                    2b) This action is non-final.  
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 12,14-19,34-39,67,69-79 and 93-161 is/are pending in the application.  
 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.  
 5) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.  
 6) Claim(s) 12,14-19,34-39,67,69-79 and 93-161 is/are rejected.  
 7) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.  
 8) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.  
 10) The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.  
     Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
     Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).  
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
 a) All    b) Some \* c) None of:  
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  
 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)  
 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
     Paper No(s)/Mail Date 5/9/05,7/26/05,4/15/06
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
     Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_.  
 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)  
 6) Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

## DETAILED ACTION

1. Prosecution on the merits of this application is reopened on claims 12, 14-19, 34-39, 67, 69-79, and 93-161 considered unpatentable for the reasons indicated below:

### ***Claim Objections***

2. **Claim 12** is objected to because of the following informalities: It appears that the word "if" has been omitted in line 15 of the claim. It appears that the limitation should read as "a plurality of first processors". Appropriate correction is required.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112***

3. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

4. **Claims 12, 34, 67, 74, 121, 138, and 155**, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

As per **claims 12, 34, and 67**, the limitation "each card containing an electronic memory, a plurality of homes, a store and a routing system" as recited is vague and indefinite. It is unclear to the Examiner if the card contains an electronic memory, a plurality of homes, a store, and a routing system or if the card only contains electronic money. Appropriate correction is required.

As per **claims 12 and 34**, the limitation "generating network addresses in response to an internetwork address" as recited is vague and indefinite. It is unclear to the Examiner what the Applicant means by "in response to an internetwork address". Where was the internetwork address before it was received?

As per **claims 12, 34 and 67**, the limitations "corresponding to a product", "corresponding to a respective computer", and "corresponding to a second computer" as recited is vague and indefinite. It is unclear to the Examiner what the Applicant means by "corresponding". Appropriate correction is required.

As per **claims 12 and 67**, the limitation "wherein the second computer includes circuitry for receiving first signals" as recited is vague and indefinite. It is unclear to the Examiner if the first signals received are the same as the first signals that where sent in line 8 of the claim 12 and line 9 of claim 67.

As per **claims 34 and 67**, the limitation "each first signal including a signal corresponding to a product, and an internetwork address" as recited is vague and indefinite. It is unclear to the Examiner whether the first signal includes an internetwork address or if the internetwork address is meant to only correspond to the second computer. Appropriate correction is required.

As per **claim 34**, the limitation "sending, responsive to the signal received in the previous step" as recited is vague and indefinite. It is unclear to the Examiner to which previous step the Applicant is referring. Appropriate correction is required.

As per **claim 34**, the limitation “sending, responsive to the signal received in the previous step” as recited is vague and indefinite. It is unclear to the Examiner to which signal the Applicant is referring. Appropriate correction is required.

As per **claim 34**, the limitation “moving the portable card to the store” as recited is vague and indefinite. It is unclear to the Examiner who moves the card to the store.

As per **claims 67 and 74**, the limitation “corresponding to a respective portion of a signal path” as recited is vague and indefinite. It is unclear to the Examiner what the Applicant means by “corresponding”. Appropriate correction is required.

As per **claims 121, 138 and 155**, the limitation “corresponding to a product” as recited is vague and indefinite. It is unclear to the Examiner what the Applicant means by “corresponding”. Appropriate correction is required.

As per **claim 67**, the limitation “responsive to a signal corresponding to a product, from a first signal received by the second computer” as recited is vague and indefinite. It is unclear to the Examiner if the first signals received by the second computer are the same as the first signals in line 14 of claim 67. Appropriate correction is required.

### ***Conclusion***

5. Applicant is invited to call the Examiner, to schedule a telephone interview after consideration of the Office Action.

Art Unit: 3639

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Shannon S. Saliard whose telephone number is 571-272-5587. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday, 8:00 am - 4:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John W. Hayes can be reached on 571-272-6708. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Please address mail to be delivered by the United States Postal Service (USPS) as follows:

***Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks***

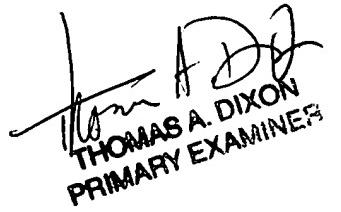
***Washington, D.C. 20231***

Or faxed to:

**(571) 273-5587 [Informal/ Draft Communications, labeled  
"PROPOSED" or "DRAFT"]**

Hand delivered responses should be brought to the Customer Service Window, Randolph Building, 401 Dulany Street, Alexandria, VA 22314

Shannon S Saliard  
Examiner

  
THOMAS A. DIXON  
PRIMARY EXAMINER